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Records of Fort St. George

MANILHA CONSULTATIONS, 1763

(Volume No. 4)

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Records of Fort St. George

MANILHA CONSULTATIONS, 1763

(Volume No. 4)

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PREFATORY NOTE.

This volume contains the Manilha Consultations from March to 22nd August 1763 and is the fourth of the series known as " Manilha Consultations."

The original manuscript volume has been mended and is in a fair state of preservation.

EGMORE,
30*th October* 1941.

B. S. BALIGA,
Curator, Madras Record Office.

RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE

MANILHA CONSULTATIONS, 1763

Volume 4.

FROM MARCH TO 22ND AUGUST 1763

Mr. Radermaker, Shawbander at Batavia.

Sir

Your Judgment was like that of a Prophet, when you formed the Idea, of withdrawing your Property, which your complaisance made you risque on Captn. Placedo's ship. The English as it were fell from Heaven, and appeared before the walls of this town, with fourteen Sail of Men of War, having on board five thousand Land Forces; on the 22d. of September in the afternoon they arrived, and on the 23d. between six and seven in the dusk of the Evening they disembarked their Troops, at a quarter of a League from the city, not meeting with the least opposition or obstacle, and took possession of two strong churches, which were not above half a musket from the Fortifications, under the shelter of these churches, they erected their Batteries of bombs and cannon which soon thundered a very quick fire against this unhappy Town, where every thing necessary for a defence was wanting; the 4th. October, the breach was made and perfectly made too at the saliant angle of the Royal Bastion, and in spite of the repeated advices I gave to the Governor not to wait to the Extremity for capitulating, a foolish and ignorant counsellor, made him suspend the exception of it; and on the 5th. at six in the morning mounted the breach without losing a man, just at the moment I had prevailed on the Governor to beat the Chamade, and hang out a Flag of Truce in the breach, in order to make the most advantageous terms that was possible; Oh! too late determination the Place was stormed, and 150 men put to death in cold blood at their entrance, the Town pillaged and ransacked to the very foundation, churches profaned, Virgins violated, a thousand sacrileges committed, and many other abominations which makes even nature blush, and gives horror to express. We never heard before, that the English a nation, noble, polite, and generous, did ever abuse their Victories; But those who came to conquer Manila behaved like barbarous and unbridled vagabonds. Admiral Cornish Worse than the most vile and lewd of all Pirates committed a thousand indignities and base actions which could not be pardoned in the most low, and despicable seamen. Four months by that insatiable thief has the Town been pillaged, and reduced to the greatest and most miserable situation that any place ever was before, and all that we possessed moveable or immoveable even clothes and Linnen, in short every thing that was not within was made a prey of these vultures.

The ship and cargoe of poor Placedo has been pillaged, confiscated, and sold in spite of protests and other practicable diligences made use of on such occasions, as also lawful declarations, testimonies &c^{a}. that that cargoe destined for China was the sole property of the Gentlemen at Batavia, yet nothing could hinder that rapacious villanious thief, from laying his unlawful hands on her. The British Governor and Council hath equally protested against that iniquitous behaviour, and flatter themselves that the Council at Madras will render satisfaction; Placedo with patience waiting for the justice of that Tribunal, to whom Cornish and his Squadron are answerable. He departed from this place the third current, cursed by all the world, and we flatter ourselves that the Letters wrote by the Gentlemen of the commerce of this Town to His Britannick Majesty relating the execrable conduct of this Admiral, will render, & make the English nation ashamed in Europe and that they will obtain that satisfaction they deserve from the unjust Treatment of those who conquered them.

I had given to the workmen 700 Dollars to execute the commissions you gave me all of which has been plundered, never was Town treated as this.

MANILHA,
MARCH 1763.

The foregoing was not signed the Declaimer being afraid I suppose, but the Letter was delivered by M^{r}. Fyats servant, and the writing will prove it to be his.

(A true copy)

J. M. STONE,
Sec^{ry}.

COPY of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State to Vice Admiral Cornish Dated 21st. March 1763.

SIR

You will receive from the Lords of the Admiralty an account of the happy conclusion of the Peace; and their Lordships will also transmit to you the King's orders as to the future disposition of the squadron under your command in the East Indies, I have therefore only to send You the enclosed sign Manual which will fully authorize you and all others his Majestys officers to deliver up any Places to be restored either to France or Spain which may remain under your Command.

I am &c^{a}.
EGREMONT.

VICE ADMIRAL CORNISH.

(A true copy)

J. M. STONE,
Sec^{ry}.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont one of his Majesty's prncipal Secretaries of State to Major General Lawrence dated 24th March 1763.

With regard to the Restitutions and other arrangements in the East Indies, the Company will send the necessary orders to their Servants and the enclosed sign'd Manual, will fully authorize you, and all others His Majesty's officers to deliver up any places to be restored either to France or Spain which may remain under your Command.

Major General Lawrence.

(A true copy)

J. M. STONE,
Sec^{ry}.

EXTRACT from the 10th. Paragraph of the Company's General Letter of the 31st. March 1763.

As our beforemention'd seperate Letter of the 9th. Instant which contains our Sentiments upon & Directions for carrying into Execution the Treaty on the Part of the Company was laid before his Majesty's Ministers in Form & as no objection was made thereto, We may well conclude they were approved of especially as from the before recited Letters it appears We were admitted to send the necessary orders with regard to the restitutions & other Arrangements. From the said Letters it seems [also] that the King's Land & Sea Officers are to be conce[rned . . .] for restoring such Places only as may be in their Possession. Be that as it may it is earnestly recommended to Our respective Presidents & Councils to take the most prudent Measures in concert with His Majesty's Officers to carry into execution in the most effectual Manner the Treaty of Peace agreeable to the several Articles relative to the Company, & to the Government's & Our beforemention'd Instructions.

(A true Extract)

J. M. STONE,
Secry.

GENTLEMEN

Having very sufficient reason to believe that Mr. Falliet a prisoner of war on his Parole at Manila, had been guilty of many male Practices against the English Government and judging him to be a Person too dangerous to remain there after my departure, I demanded him of Mr. Drake your Provisional Governor there, who thought proper to refuse a Prisoner of War to the first Officer commanding on that Expedition.

I have lately received a Letter from Captain Scott of the Salabudjung enclosing me the Translation of an anonymous Letter address'd to the Shawbundar at Batavia containing the most scandalous Reflections, and false Assertions, on the conduct and Behaviour of the Forces employed in the Reduction of Manila, and against my own Person and character in particular, copy of which I enclose to you: this Letter was intercepted by Captain Scott in consequence of Instructions he received from the Gentlemen at Manila, and which from the handwriting as well as from several circumstances contained in it, proves Mr. Falliet to be the Author. In Justice therefore to the Gentlemen, I had the Honor to serve with, as to myself, I am to request that you will give me an order for Mr. Drake to deliver up Mr. Falliet as a prisoner of war to the commanding officer of his Majestys ships at Manila as I propose sending him to England and shall make Representation of him to the King.

I persuade myself Gentlemen you will shew your Disapprobation of the Impropriety of Mr. Drake's Conduct in detaining this Person of known infamous character, whom I am sorry to say Mr. Drake has too much patronized, and from whose improper Influence with him, I had too much reason before my Departure from Manila to be apprehensive for the security of the conquest and am to beg the favour you will give Direction to the Gentlemen at Manila that particular care is taken to prevent this Mans Escape whom I do demand as His Majesty's Prisoner.

I have the Pleasure to be,
GENTLEMEN
Your most Obedient Humble Servant,
SAML. CORNISH.

ADMTY HOUSE,
MADRASS 14TH. JULY 1763.

PRESIDENT & COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

(A true copy)

J. M. STONE,
Secry.

To Dawsonne Drake Esq^{R}.
Deputy Governor &c^{A}. Council at Manilha.

Gentlemen

In our Letter of the 23^{d}. ultimo We advised You of having received a Confirmation of a Cessation of arms between England, France and Spain, We are now to acquaint you that the Neptune which arrived here the 31st. ultimo brought us the Preliminary Articles of Peace which come enclosed.

As it is generally thought that little or no Alteration will be made in the Articles which the Definitive Treaty comes to be settled & that Manilha as well as all other Places taken in those Seas will consequently be restored again to the Spaniards you are therefore to make the necessary Disposition for delivering them up, as soon as you shall receive orders for that purpose; In the mean Time you will take every possible Method of retrenching your Expences. We now send you a Lack of Rupees which we hope will be sufficient for you untill the Peace is restored.

We shall now proceed to answer such Parts of your Letter, which We think require our immediate Directions.

We have already told you that we would have your Attention wholly confined to the Care of Manilha & Cavita without endeavoring to reduce any other Parts of the Island of Luconia, which as they must all be restored can only be attended with Expence & Trouble.

With respect to the Allowance you desire may be made to Captain Brereton during his stay at Cavita, as We are convinced of the reasonableness thereof you are therefore at Liberty to allow him five Pagodas ℔ Day.

We are sorry to find that Major Fell shou'd dispute your Authority with regard to your granting Commissions; It is therefore our express Orders that He be acquainted that you have full Powers from us to grant Commissions to whatever persons you may think proper which Commissions are to be in full Force untill revoked by us.

With Respect to Major Fell's Application for a Secretary and Aid du Camp as also for 5 Pagodas ℔ Day for his Table, We cannot think there is any Reason for such Allowances You have therefore our orders not to comply therewith.

As the expences already incurred by this Expedition have been very heavy we cannot possibly think of making any Allowance of Batta to the Military. They must remain satisfied with their Pay until they are withdrawn, which will probably be in a very Short Time.

Don Francisco Fernando de Noronia and Miguel Antonio Gomez having desired to return to Manilha, we have accordingly sent them on this Ship.

We are
Gentlemen,
Your affectionate Friends

Fort St. George
24th. June 1763.

George Pigot.
Robt. Palk.
Chs. Bourchier.
Richd. Fairfield.
Jos. Dupre'
Jas. Alexander.
John Call.

To Dawsonne Drake Esq^R^.
Deputy Governor, &c^A^. Council at Manilha.

Gentlemen,

We have received Your Letter of the 16^th^. March with the several Papers mentioned in the Packet accompanying it.

We were in hopes before this time that we might have been able to have made known to You the particulars of the definitive Treaty, but have as yet received no later advices than You have been acquainted with.

It is our intention at present to detain the Falmouth untill the last day of this Month; if in that time we should receive any advices worth communicating to You, that Ship shall be ordered to stop at Manilha, but on the other hand should no such advices reach us in that time, it will be too hazardous to detain the Falmouth longer, and in this Case she will be dispatched to China directly and when we do receive advices from England of the definitive Treaty, we will ask the favour of M^r^. Cornish to dispatch one of his ships to Manilha should we have no Vessel of the Company's.

Our President has acquainted us that M^r^. Lewin Smith enjoying but a bad state of health is desirous of returning to the Coast, either by a Conveyance which may offer directly or to proceed by the way of China; we are persuaded if he be at this time reinstated in his Health, and his Presence be wanted at Manilha, he will not make use of the liberty we now give him of leaving that Place, but on the contrary if his Health be bad, and his service can de dispensed with, You will please to let him return hither or proceed to China.

We inclose to You Copy of a Letter addressed to us by M^r^. Cornish, and of one inclosed and referred to therein; we are much concerned for the Cause of it, and agreable to his request direct, that You immediately on receipt hereof deliver up M^r^. Falliet to the Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Ships.

With respect to the application of Mess^rs^. Parsons and Stevenson to be admitted into Council; It was our Intention that vacancies at the Board should be filled up, by the next in Seniority; you will therefore, if you have not already done it, appoint them to fill up the Vacancies occasioned by the departure of Mess^rs^. Russel and Johnson.

We are
Gentlemen,
Your affectionate Friends,
George Pigot.
Rob^t^. Palk.
Ch^s^. Bourchier.
Jos. Dupre.
Ja^s^. Alexander.
John Call.

Fort St. George
18^th^. July 1763.

To Dawsonne Drake Esq^R^.
Deputy Governour &c^A^. Council at Manilha.

Gentlemen,

Agreable to what we wrote you under date 16^th^. Inst. by the Admiral Pocock, (a duplicate of which comes enclosed), the Revenge is now ordered to call on You in her way to China.

By our Letters to the Supracargoes there which come under a flying seal for your perusal You will find that in consequence of our having received the definitive Treaty we are taking every possible means of withdrawing our Troops & People from Manilha with the utmost Expedition; we have earnestly recommended to the Gentlemen in China to afford us all the assistance in their power which we doubt not they will chearfully do, and if You should want any further assistance from them, than what we have desired, you will by the Revenge make them acquainted therewith, particularly with the number of ships You may require.

We hope from what the Admiral informs us of his having left with You Provisions for the Garrison for three Months You will have sufficient remaining for your passage to this place we have however put on board the Revenge 13 Casks of Beef, & We would have You if you find it necessary write to the Supracargoes at Canton by the Revenge to send you a further supply which they may do by the Ships they may order to Your assistance.

At the time the Ships left England it could not be known in Europe that Manilha was in our hands, it is not therefore to be expected that the Spanish Court should yet have sent Commissaries to receive it in time for You to evacuate it this Season; this however must not prevent You from delivering it up to the late Governor, or in case of his death or absence, to the next Person in rank to him; as soon as all the ships are assembled and You have every thing prepared for Embarkation as the arrival of the Troops here this Season is of the utmost Consequence to the Company's Affairs.

By the Orders his Majesty has been pleased to give the Commanders of his Land & Sea Forces in India, Copies of which we have been furnished with, it should seem that they are to be concerned in restoring such Places only as are under their Command, nevertheless the Company have most earnestly recommended to us, as we do to you, to take the most prudent and effectual Measures in Concert with his Majesty's officers to carry into Execution the Treaty of Peace agreable to the several Articles relative to the Company. Admiral Cornish writes to Captain Brereton on the same Subject, and his Instructions are worded conformably to those he has received according to the Sense and meaning of which it seems clear to us that as the Company is in possession of Manilha they only or their Servants are to use the form of restoring it, and when You do so a proper acknowledgement should be given to You in writing from the Governor or Officer whom you put in possession of the Place.

It will be necessary that you shou'd immediately make the Spaniards acquainted with the Treaty of Peace which you should cause to be publickly proclaimed, as well as with the Instructions we now send You in order that they may be ready to receive from You the several Places taken from them.

The Revenge we have dispatched to You, and have ordered the Captain to follow such Instructions for his future Proceedings as you may give him, You are therefore to order him to proceed with all Expedition to Mocoa, and from thence to forward our Packet together with that he may receive from you, to the Supracargoes at Canton in order that the Company may not be put to the unnecessary charge of Measurage. You will further order him to remain at Mocoa untill he shall receive orders from the Supracargoes at Canton to return to You which we hope they will furnish him with as soon as possible.

You will observe by the 3d. Article of the definitive Treaty that the Charges which either Nation may have been at in the maintenance of Prisoners is to be reimbursed, You will therefore be careful to bring with You explicit accounts of all the Moneys which you have advanced or laid out for the Maintenance or service of the Subjects of Spain under your department and these accounts should be authenticated in Triplicates by the Governor or other officer appointed by him who should certify at the foot, that the sums inserted therein, have been employed in the manner and for the purposes therein expressed.

We are,
GENTLEMEN
Your affectionate Friends

FORT ST. GEORGE
3D. AUGUST 1763.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBT. PALK.
CHS. BOURCHIER.
RICHD. FAIRFIELD.
CHARLESS TURNER.
JOS: DUPRE'.

[*Letters dated* 16*th August* 1763 *and* 22*nd August* 1763 *omitted as the Military Consultations* 1763. *Vol. No.* 19-*A*, *which is to be printed in full, contain them.*]

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